



Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Rural Health Care Pilot Project

Dear Rural Health Care Pilot Project Review Committee:

We **at** Mercy Medical Center are **pleased** to **support** and participate in the proposed OneCommunity Rural Health Care project. This initiative, designed to serve the Northeast Ohio Region, has been created in **response to** the Federal Communication Commission announcement for a Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

Mercy Medical Center is a 476-bed hospital serving Stark, Carroll, Wayne, Holmes and Tuscarawas Counties and parts of southeastern Ohio. It has 550 physicians on its Medical Staff and employs 2,500 people. Mercy **operates** six outpatient health centers in North Canton, Carrollton, Jackson Township, Lake Township and Louisville.

Mercy Medical Center is **a** Catholic hospital which upholds all **Catholic** faith obligations and the mission and philosophy of the Sisters of Charity of St. **Augustine**, and continues to be responsive to the needs of the community, including the provision of **care** to all, regardless of their ability to pay.

Mercy Medical Center believes that **a** successful implementation **of** this Pilot Project will set the stage for greater collaboration amongst the healthcare facilities, university medical centers, major teaching centers, colleges and universities that train, conduct research and provide **advanced** healthcare throughout Ohio and the Northeast region.

We **are** pleased to offer this **support** letter for OneCommunity because OneCommunity has **a** successful broadband **network**, significant healthcare technology coordination role **and** established partner network that includes the Northeast Ohio Regional Health Organization (NEO RHIO), regional urban **and** rural healthcare **providers**, and a consortium of vendors, technology researchers and government **advisers**. This existing core network and health *care* focus should allow OneCommunity to meet the expected goals and outcomes of the FCC's pilot program.

OneCommunity is in **a** unique position because they have **already** been working with us to extend our current network and **clearly** detailed how they would install additional gigabyte optical fiber connections to hospitals, care providers, patients and government health agencies in the rural areas of Northeastern Ohio. We believe that OneCommunity's goals are specific and meet the tone and objectives of the FCC pilot project.



Finally, we **are pleased** to offer a strong recommendation to OneCommunity and NEO RHIO. Their partnerships, developed across **several industries**, provide structure and vision **to** ensure project sustainability and **access for future** eHealth Initiatives. Should there be any **questions** regarding our support or this letter, please **do** not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

James O. Carroll
Chief Information Officer
330.489.1097
James.Carroll@CSAUH.COM